

# Reading/Performing the Plays

## *Susu and the Magic Mirror*

Notes by Lindsay M. Parker

### Three ways that students and teachers can utilize the play:

1. **Students can read the play aloud from their seats.** Students simply read their lines. They do not follow the stage directions.
2. **Students can perform the play in the classroom.** Clear an area that can be used as the stage. Have the audience sit on the floor in front of the stage. Students in the play can make simple costumes and/or sets, as described below. When the scenes change, the characters on "stage" simply walk to the back of the room, where they wait until their next appearance on "stage."
3. **Students can perform the play onstage.** For a performance on a real stage, see the notes on sets, costumes, and props.

### Set Suggestions

**ACT 1:** No backdrop. If you have stage lights, shine a spotlight on SUSU and  
 SUSU's FATHER. The rest of the stage should be dark.

**ACT 2:** Paint a backdrop to show a dark forest of trees and small bushes.

**ACT 3:** The backdrop looks the same in in ACT 2, but there is a house painted into the set. You can paint a new set or just paint a house and tape it over the forest portion.

**ACT 4:** The backdrop shows some trees and bushes. SUSU'S FATHER's house can be painted using round sponges to give it the appearance of stone.

### Costumes

**Owls:** Wings made from paper and attached to the arms. Colors neutral.

**Susu:** A long skirt and blouse. Bright colors.

**Father:** A button down shirt, brown pants and boots.

### Costumes, *continued*

**Stepmother:** A long, black skirt and a blouse.

**Falcon:** Wings made from paper and attached to the arms. Neutral colors.

**Chico:** A dirty white shirt, brown pants, boots.

**Mano:** Brightly colored pants and a white button-down shirt.

### Props

**Act 1:** A moon hanging from the ceiling. Two chairs.

**Act 2:** A three-dimensional tree made from a large tube with tissue paper leaves. The tree is secured with a bucket of sand. There is also a chair and book onstage for SUSU'S FATHER.

**Act 3:** Tree from Act 2. A bush painted onto foam core and cut out (secure the bush by attaching it to a chair from behind). Two chairs.

**Act 4:** A grindstone painted on foam core, cut out and secured as above. Three chairs and a table.

### Character Notes

**Susu:** Well-meaning, loving to her father, horrified at what her stepmother tells her. Her voice should be clear and strong.

**Owls:** A role where the actors can go "over the top." They hoot in an evil manner and glare at Susu. It is best when they act and speak in unison.

**Father:** A loving father. During most of the play he is sick. He bends over, coughs, wheezes, and talks in a raspy voice. Once the curse is lifted he stands up straight and talks in a healthy, booming voice.

**Stepmother:** Another role where the actor can go really get into it. She is overly sweet when talking to others and cackles wickedly when talking to Susu. She stomps, hisses, gestures wildly.

**Falcon:** Whispers his/her lines.

**Chico:** Eager and earnest. Attentive to Susu.

**Wise Man:** Hunched over from old age, whispery voice. He is fond of Chico and may rest a hand on his back.

**Mano:** Stands up straight, holds hands behind back. Bows head slightly and sharply turns when he is dismissed.

# **Casting Slips**

## *Susu & the Magic Mirror*

**Susu**

**Susu's Father**

**Stepmother**

**Falcon**

**Chico**

**Wise Man**

**Owl #1**

**Owl #2**

**Mano, the Servant**

★ *Note:* You may cast as many— or as few—additional OWLS as you have possibilities. Also, FROGS and BATS can enact the scene described by Chico.

★ *Another note:* NARRATOR(S) can be one student or several students. A NARRATOR can be any student who does not have a speaking part who wants to perform.